Amendments To The Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown.

1 – 11 (canceled)

12. (new) A heat shield element, comprising:

a basic body formed from a strengthened ceramic material; and

a reinforcing element contained within the basic body that increases the tensile strength of the heat shield element.

13. (new) The heat shield element as claimed in claim 12, wherein the reinforcing element is formed from a ceramic composite material.

14. (new) The heat shield element as claimed in claim 13, wherein the reinforcing element surface has a plurality of protrusions.

15. (new) The heat shield element as claimed in claim 14, wherein the reinforcing element comprises a flat plate arranged at a distance from and parallel to the surface of the basic body.

16. (new) The heat shield element as claimed in claim 15, wherein the plate shaped reinforcing element has a plurality of apertures.

17. (new) The heat shield element as claimed in claim 16, wherein the reinforcing element has a lattice structure.

18. (new) The heat shield element as claimed in claim 13, wherein the reinforcing element has a rod shape profile and is located along a peripheral edge of the basic body.

19. (new) The heat shield element as claimed in claim 13, wherein the basic body has a rectangular profile with four corner regions and the reinforcing element has a cross shape

where an end of the cross shaped reinforcing element is positioned in the corner region of the basic body.

20. (new) The heat shield element as claimed in claim 13, wherein the reinforcing element has an annular closed shape and is arranged along the periphery of the basic body.

21. (new) The heat shield element as claimed in claim 12, wherein the body is formed from a cast ceramic material

22. (new) A combustion chamber, comprising:

an annular combustion chamber wall having an inner surface;

a plurality of combustors arranged circumferentially through the combustion chamber wall; and

a plurality of heat shield elements arranged on the inner surface to form an inner lining comprising a body formed from a ceramic material and a reinforcing element contained within the body that has a greater tensile strength that the tensile strength of the heat shield element.

23. (new) The combustion chamber as claimed in claim 22, wherein the body is formed from a cast ceramic material.

24. (new) An axial flow gas turbine engine arranged about a central axis, comprising:

a rotor rotationally mounted about the central axis of the engine;

an intake housing that intakes air;

a compressor section that compresses the intake air; and

an annular combustion chamber that accepts the compressed air, introduces a fuel and combusts the fuel and compressed air to provide a hot working fluid wherein the combustion chamber comprises:

an annular combustion chamber wall having an inner surface,

a plurality of combustors arranged circumferentially through the combustion chamber wall, and

a plurality of heat shield elements arranged on the inner surface to form an inner lining comprising a body formed from a ceramic material and a reinforcing element contained within the body that has a greater tensile strength than the tensile strength of the heat shield element.

25. (new) The axial flow gas turbine engine as claimed in claim 24, wherein the body is formed from a cast ceramic material.